Funds released to REC

397. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 1901 given in the Rajya Sabha on 8th August, 2001 and state:

(a) the names of SSI manufacturers to whom an amount of Rs. 25.00 lakhs has been released during July, 2001;

(b) whether 90 per cent of the sanctioned loan assistance of Rs. 5.16 crores has already been released by the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) to the Government of Manipur on 31st March, 2001 for disbursement to SSI manufacturers of energy meters;

(c) if so, the reasons for withholding the balance payment by officers of REC and Government of Manipur;

(d) whether Government would fix responsibility and take action against erring officers responsible for misappropriation of Government funds; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Electricity Department, Government of Manipur have informed that an amount of Rs. 25.00 lakhs was released to M/s. Elymer Electric.

(b) to (e) REC has released Rs. 4.4 crore as on 31.3.2001 against the sanctioned loan assistance of Rs. 5.16 crores on the basis of procurement of meters by the Electricity Department of Manipur Government. REC does not procure meters or any other equipment and, therefore, the release of funds to the spppliers by REC does not arise. The State Electricity Boards/State Power Department who procure materials make payments to the suppliers as per terms of their contract. REC has not withheld any payment to the electricity Department, Government of Manipur against the claim submitted by them for this scheme.